

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

*Docket - 222*

POLICY & PLANNING  
BRANCH ROOM 5202

30 MAR 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO

# Congressional

DLF 83-24-93

PLEASE MAKE 2 EXTRA COPIES OF INCOMING, ATTACHMENTS,  
AND REPLY FOR DOCKET FILE, ROOM 222.

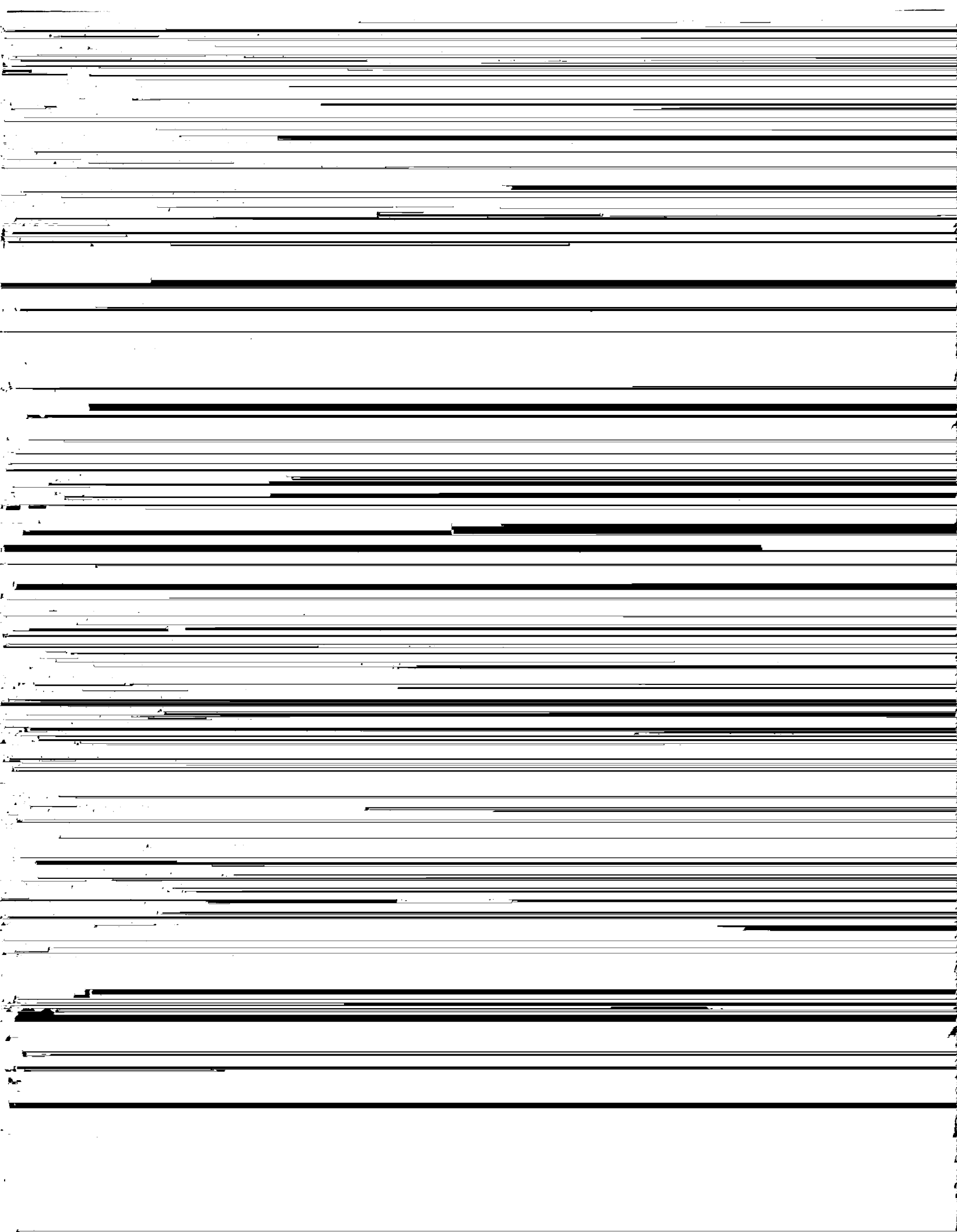
CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM  
03/17/93

## LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9301252	03/17/93	03/01/93	04/06/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Congresswoman	Corrine Brown	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
Wayne A Smith	ing. comments on PR Docket 92-235



JAN 28 1993

Wayne A. Smith  
8024 Orlando Ave.  
Jacksonville, FL 32208

January 24, 1993

Honorable Congressman Michael Bilirakis  
4111 Land of Lakes Boulevard  
Suite 306  
Land of Lakes, FL 34639

Dear Congressman Bilirakis,

I am writing you about a proposed rule change under consideration by the F.C.C.. The changes are listed under PR Docket 92-235.

I have been an avid model airplane enthusiast since my childhood. As a father, I introduced my 6 children to the modeling hobby. My two sons and I still get together on Sundays for a day of flying and a get together of our families. This is a family oriented hobby that has proven a great joy to myself and my family for over 50 years. This activity has proven to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. In addition to enjoying all the many facets of constructing and flying model aircraft, the fact that my family still gets together every Sunday for a day of flying has kept our family close over the years and been a great source of joy for me.

I am also a club member of the Tampa Radio Control Aircraft Club. Not only are we a valuable source for the monitoring of the many safety aspects relating to our hobby, but we also are quite active in our community. Every year we are a big participant in the childrens festival at the University of South Florida. We also have "Field Days" at our site for the Boy Scouts, Big Brothers, as well as handicapped and disadvantaged children. Our club is certainly not unique when it comes to community activities and combined with the over 200 clubs located in the state, we are a small but valuable asset to our state.

The proposed rule change being considered by the F.C.C. will have a profound effect on the continuation of this wonderful hobby of model aviation. Our radio control frequencies are in the 72 - 76 MHz band. This band is primarily used private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

Now the F.C.C. wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio frequencies and cause interference to radio control operations. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control model airplanes, only 19 frequencies will be left if these new rules are adopted.

Over the 50 years I have been associated with this radio-controlled hobby, the F.C.C. has classified our use of frequencies as secondary to commercial activities. Due to this fact, the modeling industry and modelers have had to change frequency use numerous times due to the F.C.C. allowing commercial or primary frequency users to compromise or interfere with the frequencies the F.C.C. had given to us. Although the modeling industry, the Academy of Model Aeronautics, the Sport Flyers Association and the modeling members have tried to have the F.C.C. classify our use of the frequencies from secondary to primary, the F.C.C. has failed to act upon this request and has left our frequency use as secondary to primary or commercial use.

This has cost the modeling industry and modeling members millions of dollars over the years in petitioning the F.C.C. for different frequencies, changing the radio controlled equipment, and the cost of all these changes has been at the expense and safety of the modeling community and the spectators that also enjoy this hobby.

When we fly our model airplanes under radio control, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders as well as the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the F.C.C., the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be reduced.

Please understand that many models have wingspans up to 10 feet and weigh as much as 55 pounds. The models themselves

industry. We have over 10 hobby shops that are supported by modelers in the Tampa area alone. The attendant rise in the cost of radio equipment that can operate safely under the new proposals will result in equipment prices that will be beyond the means of the average modeler. The new proposals will force thousands of modelers out of the hobby with all the attendant losses being suffered by hobby shops, distributors and manufacturers. In these troubled times, we must not allow the collapse of this wonderful hobby which has served us so well with all the outstanding role models and good deeds performed by its participants.

Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the F.C.C. to carry out its proposals for the 72 - 76 MHz band and to change the status of our use from secondary to primary frequency use thereby insuring that there will not be any frequency interference problems in the future.

Sincerely,